Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

17 July 2018

English only

2018 Meeting
Geneva, 4-7 December 2018

Meeting of Experts on Cooperation and Assistance, with a Particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X
Geneva, 7-8 August 2018
Items 4 to 11 of the provisional agenda

Background information document submitted by the Implementation Support Unit

I. Introduction

1. The 2017 Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) reached consensus on an intersessional programme from 2018 to 2020. The purpose of the intersessional programme is to discuss, and promote common understanding and effective action on those issues identified for inclusion in the intersessional programme. The work in the intersessional period will be guided by the aim of strengthening the implementation of all articles of the Convention in order to better respond to current challenges.

2. The intersessional programme consists of annual Meetings of States Parties preceded by annual Meetings of Experts. Each Meeting of Experts will prepare for the consideration of the annual Meeting of States Parties a factual report reflecting its deliberations, including possible outcomes. All meetings, both of Experts and of States Parties will reach any conclusions or results by consensus. The Ninth Review Conference will consider the work and outcomes it receives from the Meetings of States Parties and the Meetings of Experts and decide by consensus on any inputs from the intersessional programme and on any further action.

3. Out of the eight days allocated per year for the five open-ended Meetings of Experts, two days will be allocated to the topic of "Cooperation and Assistance, with a Particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X" to be discussed by the first Meeting of Experts (MX1). States Parties decided that MX1 will consider the following topics:

(a) Consideration of the reports of the States Parties on their full and comprehensive implementation of all provisions of Article X;

GE.18-09983(E)
1809983

Please recycle

(b) Review of the report by the ISU on the operation of the assistance and cooperation database established by the Seventh Review Conference and renewed by the Eighth Review Conference and consideration of its further operationalization, including measures to further strengthen the operation of the database, including in the light of BWC/MSP/2017/4;

(c) Identification of challenges and obstacles to developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in the biological sciences and technology, including equipment and material, for peaceful purposes to their full potential, and possible ways and means of overcoming these;

(d) Development of guidelines and procedures for mobilizing resources, including financial resources on a voluntary basis to address gaps and needs;

(e) Facilitation of education, training, exchange and twinning programs and other means of developing human resources in biological sciences and technology related to implementation of the Convention, particularly in developing countries;

(f) Promotion of capacity building, through international cooperation, in biosafety and biosecurity and for detecting, reporting and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks, including in the areas of preparedness, response, and crisis management and mitigation;

(g) Collaboration with international organizations and networks related to combating infectious diseases at all levels, as well as regional and sub-regional cooperation to promote implementation of all articles of the Convention.

4. The purpose of this paper is to facilitate States Parties' preparations for and deliberations during MX1 by providing relevant background information on the above topics. This document therefore describes relevant provisions in the BWC and previous discussions on these topics and also provides summary information on reports submitted by States Parties on their full and comprehensive implementation of all provisions of Article X. Finally, the present paper also provides information on mandated activities given to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) on the subject matter.

5. This background document also includes three Annexes, which inform about additional understandings and agreements reached by States Parties during previous Review Conferences (Annex I), common understandings reached by States Parties during the previous intersessional process from 2012-2015 (Annex II), and a list of relevant documents submitted during the last intersessional programme 2012-2015 (Annex III).

II. Convention provisions and additional understandings and agreements reached by previous review conferences

6. Article X of the Convention reads as follows:

"(1) The States Parties to this Convention undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes. Parties to the Convention in a position to do so shall also cooperate in contributing individually or together with other States or international organizations to the further development and application of scientific discoveries in the field of bacteriology (biology) for prevention of disease, or for other peaceful purposes.

(2) This Convention shall be implemented in a manner designed to avoid hampering the economic or technological development of States Parties to the Convention or

international cooperation in the field of peaceful bacteriological (biological) activities, including the international exchange of bacteriological (biological) and toxins and equipment for the processing, use or production of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes in accordance with the provisions of the Convention."

7. States Parties have reached additional understandings and agreements relating to Article X during previous Review Conferences. These understandings and agreements relate to the following issues: 1) Implementation. 2) Scientific and technological cooperation for peaceful purposes 3) Technology transfer 4) Human, animal and plant health 5) Enhancing existing institutional ways and means 6) Further discussion in the United Nations system 7) Provision of information on implementation. The additional understandings and agreements reached on Article X at previous review conferences are presented in detail in Annex I.

III. Common understandings reached by States Parties during previous intersessional programmes

8. During the last intersessional programme from 2012 to 2015, States Parties considered 'Cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X' as a standing agenda item at both the Meeting of Experts and the Meeting of States Parties in every year from 2012 to 2015. Under this standing agenda item, the States Parties addressed the following topics:

(a) Reports by States Parties on their implementation of Article X, and reports by the ISU on the operation of the database system to facilitate assistance requests and offers;

(b) challenges and obstacles to developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in the biological sciences and technology, including equipment and material, for peaceful purposes to their full potential, and possible means of overcoming these;

(c) a range of specific measures for the full and comprehensive implementation of Article X taking into account all of its provisions, including facilitation of cooperation and assistance, including in terms of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for peaceful purposes, and identification of critical gaps and needs in these areas;

(d) ways and means to target and mobilize resources, including financial resources, to address gaps and needs for assistance and cooperation, in particular from developed to developing States Parties, and from international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders;

(e) education, training, exchange and twinning programmes and other means of developing human resources in the biological sciences and technology relevant to the implementation of the Convention, particularly in developing countries;

(f) capacity-building, through international cooperation, in biosafety and biosecurity, and for detecting, reporting, and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks, including in the areas of preparedness, response, and crisis management and mitigation; and

(g) coordination of cooperation with other relevant international and regional organizations, and other relevant stakeholders.

9. At the Meetings of States Parties in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, the States Parties reached various common understandings on these topics, which can be found in Annex II.

10. Prior to that, during the intersessional programme from 2007 to 2010, States Parties considered the topic of "With a view to enhancing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in biological sciences and technology for peaceful purposes, promoting capacity building in the fields of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis, and containment of infectious diseases: (1) for States Parties in need of assistance, identifying requirements and requests for capacity enhancement; and (2) from States Parties in a position to do so, and international organizations, opportunities for providing assistance related to these fields". This topic was the subject of discussions at the Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties in 2009. The common understandings reached on this topic by States Parties in 2009 can be found in document BWC/CONF.VII/INF.6.

11. During the first intersessional programme from 2003 to 2005, States Parties considered the topic of 'Strengthening and broadening national and international institutional efforts and existing mechanisms for the surveillance, detection, diagnosis and combating of infectious diseases affecting humans, animals, and plants'. This topic was the subject of discussion at the Meeting of Experts and the Meeting of States Parties in 2004.

IV. Reports of the States Parties on their full and comprehensive implementation of all provisions of Article X

12. The Seventh Review Conference encouraged States Parties to provide at least biannually appropriate information on how they implement Article X of the Convention to the ISU and requested the ISU to collate such information for the information of States Parties.[1] This call was repeated by the Eighth Review Conference.[2] The chart below provides an overview of how many States Parties have submitted such reports since the Seventh Review Conference.

13. From 2012 to 2017, a total of 12 States Parties, one regional organization and one group of States have submitted at least one such report (see the table below). The ISU has collated the reports on the BWC website.[3]

Table 1: States Parties or groups of States Parties, that have submitted a report on the implementation of Article X from 2012 to 2017 pursuant to paragraph 61 of the Final Declaration of the Seventh Review Conference

State/group	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*
Australia	X		X	X		
Canada	X	X		X		
China	X					
Cuba	X			X	X	
European Union	X	X			X	
Germany		X	X			

1 See BWC/CONF.VII/7, Part II, paragraph 61.
2 See BWC/CONF.VIII/4, Part II, paragraph 71.
3 See http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/(httpPages)/226CFDF7E6D66BE4C1257AC4004A1FF8?OpenDocument

State/group	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*
G7 Global Partnership				X	X	X
India			X		X	
Iraq		X				
Japan		X		X		
Republic of Korea						X
Russian Federation					X	
United Kingdom				X		X
United States	X	X	X		X	
TOTAL	6	6	4	6	6	3

14. In addition, the Preparatory Committee for the Eighth Review Conference requested the ISU to produce a background information document on the implementation of Article X, to be compiled from information submitted by States Parties. This document and its addenda included information submitted by Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.[4]

V. Relevant Activities of the Implementation Support Unit

Cooperation and assistance database

15. The Seventh Review Conference decided to establish a "database system to facilitate requests for and offers of exchange of assistance and cooperation among States Parties". The Conference mandated the ISU to establish and administer a database where the requests and offers would be stored; to facilitate, on request, the exchange of information among States Parties relating to the database and any resulting cooperation and assistance activities; and to report to States Parties on the operation of the database detailing the offers made, requests sought and matches made during a calendar year.

16. Usage of the database has followed two tracks: either States Parties have approached the ISU regarding offers of/requests for assistance so that it acts as a liaising body with the offering/requesting State(s), or requesting/offering States Parties have approached offering/requesting States Parties bilaterally. The ISU continued to facilitate contacts between offering and requesting States Parties.

17. The Seventh Review Conference tasked the ISU with the establishment and maintenance of the database, but did not allocate any additional resources for the development of a fully functioning database. Consequently, only a very basic database was

[4] Document BWC/CONF.VIII/INF.4 and Add.1, Add.2 and Add.3 and Corr.1.

established in 2012 and the function of matching offers of and requests for assistance has not worked as well as was hoped.

18. The 2013 and 2014 Meetings of States Parties noted the value of assessing the functionality of the database, strengthening its utilization and improving its operation. As decided by the 2013 Meeting of States Parties, the offers of assistance were made available on the public area of the BWC website, while the requests for assistance remain available to States Parties in the restricted area of the website.

19. As recognized by the 2014 Meeting of States Parties, usage of the database by States Parties has been "low". Until recently, few offers or requests had been submitted to the ISU and there were approximately twice the number of offers of assistance than requests. This could partly be a result of the requests for assistance being placed on the restricted area of the BWC website. It also became apparent that some potential requesting States Parties preferred to have their needs addressed informally or on a bilateral level, rather than having the information appear in the database. Another challenge has been the lack of precision in some requests, which could derive from a lack of structure to the whole process.

20. As noted in the Report of the ISU submitted to the Preparatory Committee for the Eighth Review Conference, the objective of a "database system" had not been reached at that time, due to the lack of dedicated resources.[5]

21. In response, the ISU dedicated much effort in 2016 and 2017 to further promoting and making more effective use of the database. A notification of each new offer is now immediately sent to all States Parties, while new requests are sent to all States Parties that have offered assistance. The ISU has made use of its newly established newsletter to promote the database with States Parties and other relevant actors and to provide updates on the status of offers and requests in the database. The ISU has also promoted the database in other outreach activities such as seminars on security assistance, presentations to research institutes, academic workshops and governmental and university visits to Geneva. The database is also featured in the publication, *The Biological Weapons Convention: An Introduction*.

22. Most significantly, in response to the situation described above, the Eighth Review Conference tasked the ISU, with inputs to be provided by States Parties, to "seek to improve the database to ensure that it is more user-friendly and comprehensive, and ensure that specific, timely and concrete offers of and requests for cooperation be provided by States Parties in the database".[6]

23. Following a call from the ISU, inputs were received from eight States Parties (Albania, Canada, Cuba, Germany, Qatar, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). The inputs received fell into four main categories: The first category captured suggestions relating to the format and nature of the information to be provided on requests/offers. The second compiled proposals relating to mechanisms for communicating offers and requests to States Parties. The third was concerned with suggestions relating to design features and functionality of the database with a view to improving its user-friendliness. The fourth category summarized proposals on modalities for reporting on requests responded to by offering States Parties.[7]

24. In accordance with the mandate from the Eighth Review Conference, and using a voluntary contribution received from Ireland, the ISU therefore completely updated the

---

5 See BWC/CONF.VIII/PC/7 and Amend.1.

6 See BWC/CONF.VIII/4, part III, paragraph 9.

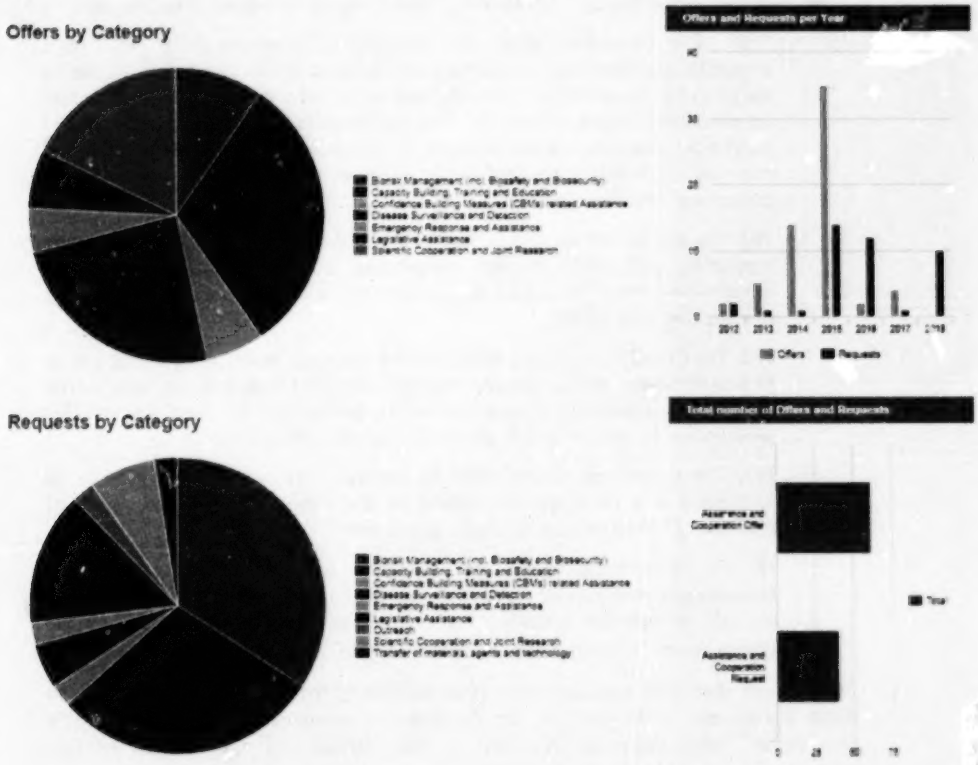
7 The inputs received are summarized in Annex IV of document BWC/MSP/2017/4.

database during 2017 on the basis of the inputs received. The new improved version of the database was presented at the MSP in December 2017 and is now operational. The new database can be accessed at www.unog.ch/bwc/database where a user guide and a document explaining the operation of the database system can also be found.

25. As of 1 June 2018, the database contained:

(a) a total of 62 offers for assistance from eight States Parties (Canada, Cuba, Denmark, France, Germany, Mexico, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America) and one group of States Parties (the Australia Group). This total includes 60 active offers and two that are no longer available; and

(b) a total of 41 requests for assistance from eight States Parties; and one update of a request of assistance. This total includes 39 active requests and two requests for assistance that have been met.



26. The ISU has also maintained regular contact with relevant assistance providers in other settings. For example, the ISU continued to work closely with providers of assistance for related national legislation and enforcement measures such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre

(VERTIC) and the Committee established pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).

Examples from other fields

27. As requested by the Chair of MX1, with respect to further strengthening the operation of the cooperation and assistance database, the ISU also studied other similar databases and mechanisms. Under United Nations Security Council resolution 1810 (2008), the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) was requested to engage in matching offers and requests for assistance, a similar role to that given to the ISU by the Seventh Review Conference. In the comprehensive review on the status of implementation of resolution 1540 issued in 2016, the Committee noted that fulfilling this "matchmaking" role in a comprehensive and timely manner has been one of its most challenging functions. An additional challenge is that, in some cases where responses have been received, requesting States have not always been able to take up the offers of assistance made. The comprehensive review included the following conclusions on the subject of assistance:

> "180. The Committee notes that fulfilling its "matchmaking" role in a comprehensive and timely manner is one of its most challenging functions. During the period under review, a decreasing number of States have used this mechanism for submitting assistance requests. This development might be due to the limited number of responses received and lack of assistance delivery. More attention and resources might also be required for the assistance mechanism to be able to deliver prompt and effective responses.
>
> 181. The Committee also notes that the regional approach in some cases, where applicable, particularly through cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, could be a useful way to improve assistance for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
>
> 182. The Committee recognizes that another challenge is that of obtaining a clear picture of existing assistance programmes so that the Committee can better advise States on the availability of resources and avoid overlaps in donors' actions. This would allow for resources to be allocated in a more efficient way.
>
> 183. The Committee believes that, in general, assistance requests need to be formulated in a more specific manner so that they the specific provisions of resolution 1540 (2004) can be taken into account.
>
> 184. The Committee recognizes the role of the Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities in support of resolution 1540 (2004). It could contribute not only to outreach activities, but also to direct assistance activities by the Committee and projects for the implementation of the resolution."[8]

28. These observations are similar to those reported by the ISU in its annual reports to States Parties and in its report to the Preparatory Committee for the Eighth Review Conference.[9] The comprehensive review also included a number of relevant recommendations on this topic as follows:

> "222. As a result of the assessments in the comprehensive review, Member States with the capacity to do so could once again be encouraged to contribute voluntarily to the Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities for support of

[8] S/2016/1038.

[9] See, for example, BWC/CONF.VIII/PC/7 and Amend.1.

resolution 1540 (2004), and work closely with the Committee in the development and design of proposed assistance projects, as well as finance projects, including through relevant international organizations, to facilitate prompt and direct responses to assistance requests.

223. The Committee could also develop, jointly with relevant international organizations, assistance projects to support States, at their request, in fulfilling their 1540 obligations. This would close a gap in assistance for those States that are committed to implementing their obligations but that might not constitute a priority for States providing assistance.

224. The Committee should seek reports on known assistance programmes and assistance providers and relevant lessons learned based on input from assistance providers, report on how to better integrate and leverage the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004) into existing programmes and further include analysis of the challenges, opportunities and effectiveness of assistance activities in subsequent annual reports on implementation.

225. The Committee could, in consultation with information technology and assistance professionals, within existing resources, develop a searchable, continuously updated database of assistance activities, pending the identification of the necessary funding, information technology and personnel to ensure sustainability. The database proposed should not duplicate any existing information gathering by other bodies. The database should link elements of assistance requests and programmes with specific obligations under the resolution and cover the status of assistance programmes. The database should also include known lessons learned, known existing resources such as online training courses, easy-to-understand guidance on requesting assistance and contacting prospective partners and a mechanism for updating information.

226. The Committee should regularly encourage States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to report to the Committee on the outcome of their responses to assistance requests and other assistance programmes to build the capacity of States to implement resolution 1540 (2004).

227. In order to support States in presenting more specific assistance requests, the Committee should continue to use the visits to States at their invitation and the development of voluntary national implementation action Plans when necessary as opportunities to refine assistance requests.

228. The Committee should revise the assistance template, to provide more substantive guidance to States on the submission of more detailed requests and should also consider developing a template for offers of assistance.

229. The Committee should increase, within existing resources, the availability of online training courses, do-it-yourself guides and similar materials, including on materials on the Office for Disarmament Affairs online database on disarmament and non-proliferation education and training resources. Any transparency measures should not contribute to the ability of non-State actors, including terrorists, to use available information to gain access to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials.

230. The Committee could consider drawing up a list of relevant assistance providers for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

231. The Committee should continue, where appropriate, with its regional assistance approach, including through the holding of regional or subregional assistance conferences to bring together States that request assistance with the principal

providers and through an effective platform for matchmaking, and recommends that this practice be enhanced by holding regional assistance conferences, among other events."[10]

29. The UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR) plays a similar role to the BWC cooperation and assistance database while also serving as a tool for mobilizing financial resources. UNSCAR is a multi-donor trust fund established in response to the need for focused and effective support for conventional arms regulation. It aims to: Mobilise resources to support the ratification and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty and the implementation of the Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons; Improve effectiveness of assistance through better coordination and matching needs with resources; and Increase sustainability in providing international assistance related to arms regulation through more predictable sources of funding. Entities eligible to apply for funding under UNSCAR include UN partners, international/regional organizations, NGOs and research institutes. Governments wishing to receive assistance should work with an eligible entity who can submit a proposal to UNSCAR.

30. UNSCAR strongly encourages coordination amongst implementing partners in order to seek synergies in relevant activities and to avoid duplication of efforts. Since its inception in 2013, UNSCAR has supported 39 projects with a total budget of approximately USD 6 million in all regions of the world. The types of activities implemented include: capacity-building (training courses, workshops); implementation tools and guides; contributions to ongoing multilateral processes; action-oriented research; support to national processes (ratification/accession); and information platforms, databases, e-learning.

31. In addition to the 1540 assistance mechanism and UNSCAR, the ISU also studied the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) established to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The TFM was created by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and launched by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to support the implementation of the SDGs. The mechanism comprises a United Nations Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs, a collaborative Multistakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum) and an on-line platform to serve as a gateway for information on existing STI initiatives, mechanisms and programmes.

32. The Interagency Task Team promotes coordination, coherence, and cooperation within the UN System on STI related matters, enhancing synergy and efficiency, in particular to enhance capacity-building initiatives. The on-line platform establishes a comprehensive mapping of, and serves as a gateway for, information on existing STI initiatives, mechanisms and programmes, within and beyond the UN. The on-line platform will facilitate access to information, knowledge and experience, as well as best practices and lessons learned, on STI facilitation initiatives and policies. The STI Forum meets annually to discuss STI cooperation around thematic areas for the implementation of the SDGs, congregating all relevant stakeholders to actively contribute in their area of expertise. The Forum provides a venue for facilitating interaction, matchmaking and the establishment of networks between relevant stakeholders and multi- stakeholder partnerships in order to identify and examine technology needs and gaps, including on scientific cooperation, innovation and capacity building, and also in order to help facilitate development, transfer and dissemination of relevant technologies for the SDGs.[11]

---

[10] S/2016/1038.

[11] A/RES/70/1 - Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

33. It may be that the 1540 assistance mechanism, the UNSCAR Trust Fund and the TFM can provide useful lessons and examples for the discussions within MX1, in particular in relation to items 5 and 7 on its provisional agenda.

Sponsorship programme

34. The Seventh Review Conference established a sponsorship programme to "support and increase the participation of developing States Parties in the meetings of the intersessional programme".[12] The programme is funded by voluntary contributions from States Parties in a position to provide them and is administered by the ISU in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Meeting of States Parties. Criteria for selection were also agreed by the Seventh Review Conference, namely that priority for sponsorship would be given to those States Parties which have previously not participated in the meetings, or have been unable to regularly send experts from capital. In addition, sponsorship may also be provided, depending upon the availability of resources, to enhance participation of States not party in order to promote universalization of the Convention.

35. From 2012 to 2017, voluntary contributions have been made to the sponsorship programme by the following countries: Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, India, Ireland, Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The European Union also contributed to the sponsorship programme in 2016 under its Council Decision 2016/51 in support of the Convention. In addition, other States Parties have sponsored participation by national experts through bilateral arrangements outside of the sponsorship programme administered by the ISU.

36. Voluntary contributions to the sponsorship programme have varied in their regularity and amounts. This makes it hard for the ISU to predict how many national experts can be sponsored to attend a particular meeting and likewise means that national experts lack predictability concerning their attendance. This complicates travel arrangements and the preparations by national experts. Predictability for States Parties could be improved, for example, by the inclusion of a budget line for the sponsorship programme in the approved budget of a future intersessional programme.

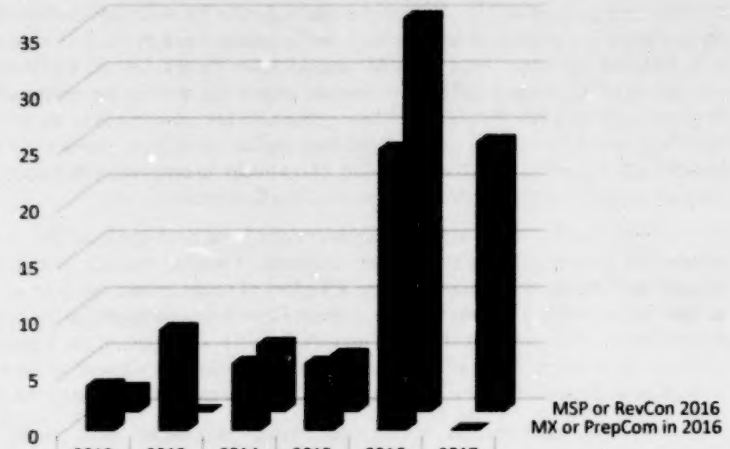
37. The unpredictability of voluntary contributions to the sponsorship programme has had an impact on the number of experts able to be supported. The chart below provides details of the number of experts supported for the Meetings of Experts and Meetings of States Parties in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, for the Preparatory Committee and the Review Conference in 2016 and for the Meeting of States Parties in 2017.

---

paragraph 70.

[12] See BWC/CONF.VII/7, Part III, paragraph 21.

States Parties supported under the BWC Sponsorship Programme from 2012 to 2017



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
MX or PrepCom in 2016	4	9	6	6	25	0
MSP or RevCon 2016	2	0	6	5	35	24

Annex I

Additional understandings and agreements reached at previous review conferences relating to Article X

On implementation

98. The Fourth Review Conference stressed that "measures to implement Article X need to be consistent with the objectives and provisions of the Convention." [IV.X.2]. The Fourth and Sixth Review Conferences emphasised that "States Parties should not use the provisions of the Convention to impose restrictions and/or limitations on transfers for purposes consistent with the objectives and provisions of the Convention of scientific knowledge, technology, equipment and materials." [VI.X.51, IV.X.4].

99. The Second Review Conference urged that "co-operation under Article X should be actively pursued both within the bilateral and the multilateral framework" and the Second, Third and Fourth Review Conferences urged "the use of existing institutional means within the United Nations system and the full utilisation of the possibilities provided by the specialized agencies and other international organisations." The Fourth Review Conference considered that "the implementation of Article X could be enhanced through greater coordination among international cooperation programmes in the biological field for peaceful purposes conducted by States Parties, specialized agencies and other international organizations." [IV.X.11, III.X.5, II.X.5].

100. The Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences recognised "the need to effectively implement national measures in order to further implementation of Article X" and urged States Parties "to undertake to review their national regulations governing international exchanges and transfers in order to ensure their consistency with the objectives and provisions of all the articles of the Convention." [VIII.X.70, VII.X.60, VI.X.52].

101. The Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences, "while noting existing bilateral, regional and multilateral assistance, cooperation and partnerships, recognized, however, that there still remain challenges to be overcome in developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in biological sciences and technology for peaceful purposes and that addressing such problems, challenges, needs and restrictions will help States Parties to build sufficient capacity for disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment." [VIII.X.66, VII.X.56].

102. The Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences recognized "that all States Parties have a role to play, and stressed that those States Parties seeking to build their capacity should identify their specific needs and requirements and seek partnerships with others, and that those States Parties, in a position to do so, should provide assistance and support." [VIII.X.66, VII.X.56].

On scientific and technological cooperation for peaceful purposes

103. The First Review Conference called upon "States Parties, especially developed countries, to increase, individually, or together with other States or international organizations, their scientific and technological co-operation, particularly with developing countries, in the peaceful uses of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins." [I.X.1].

104. The First Review Conference stated that scientific and technological cooperation on peaceful uses of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins "should include, inter alia,

the transfer and exchange of information, training of personnel and transfer of materials and equipment on a more systematic and long-term basis." [I.X.1].

105. The Second, Third and Fourth Review Conferences urged States Parties to take specific measures for the "active promotion of contacts between scientists and technical personnel on a reciprocal basis, in relevant fields." [IV.X.12, III.X.3, II.X.3]. The Third and Fourth Review Conferences also urged the United Nations and its specialised agencies to take similar specific measures. [IV.X.12, III.X.3].

106. The Second, Third and Fourth Review Conferences urged States Parties to take specific measures for "increased technical co-operation and assistance, including training programmes to developing countries in the use of bio-sciences and genetic engineering for peaceful purposes." [IV.X.12, III.X.3, II.X.3]. The Third and Fourth Review Conferences urged that this be accomplished "through active association with United Nations institutions, including the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology." [IV.X.12, III.X.3]. The Third and Fourth Review Conferences also urged the United Nations and its specialised agencies to take similar specific measures. [IV.X.12, III.X.3].

107. The Fourth Review Conference urged States Parties, the United Nations and its specialised agencies to take further specific measures for the "promotion of programmes for the exchange and training of scientists and experts, and the exchange of scientific and technical information in the biological field between developed and developing countries." [IV.X.12].

108. The Second, Third and Fourth Review Conferences urged States Parties to take specific measures to encourage "the co-ordination of national and regional programmes and working out in an appropriate manner the ways and means of co-operation in this field." [IV.X.12, III.X.3, II.X.3]. The Third and Fourth Review Conferences also urged the United Nations and its specialised agencies to take similar specific measures. [IV.X.12, III.X.3].

On technology transfer

109. The Second Review Conference urged "States Parties to provide wider access to and share their scientific and technological knowledge in this field, on an equal and non-discriminatory basis, in particular with the developing countries, for the benefit of all mankind." [II.X.2].

110. The Third[13] and Fourth Review Conferences urged "all States Parties actively to continue to promote international cooperation and exchange with States Parties in the peaceful uses of biotechnology, and urged all States Parties possessing advanced biotechnology to adopt positive measures to promote technology transfer and international cooperation on an equal and non-discriminatory basis in particular with the developing countries, for the benefit of all mankind." [IV.X.2, III.X.2].

111. The Second[14], Third and Fourth Review Conferences urged States Parties to take specific measures for the "wider transfer and exchange of information, materials and equipment among States on a systematic and long-term basis." [IV.X.12, III.X.3, II.X.3]. The Third and Fourth Review Conferences also urged the United Nations and its specialised agencies to take similar specific measures. [IV.X.12, III.X.3].

112. The Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences urged "all States Parties possessing advanced biotechnology to adopt positive measures to promote technology

[13] Slightly different wording
[14] Slightly different wording

transfer and international cooperation on an equal and non-discriminatory basis, particularly with countries less advanced in this field, while promoting the basic objectives of the Convention, as well as ensuring that the promulgation of science and technology is fully consistent with the peaceful object and purpose of the Convention." [VIII.X.59, VII.X.51, VI.X.47].

113. The Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences recognised "the important role of the private sector in the transfer of technology and information." [VIII.X.62, VII.X.52, VI.X.56].

114. The Seventh and Eighth Review Conference agreed "on the value of targeting and mobilizing resources, including financial resources, to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, material and scientific and technological information to help overcome challenges to disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment." [VIII.X.66, VII.X.56].

On human, animal and plant health

115. The Second, Third and Fourth Review Conferences called "for greater co-operation in international public health and disease control." [IV.X.12, III.X.3, II.X.4]. The Third and Fourth Review Conferences also urged the United Nations and its specialised agencies to take similar specific measures. [IV.X.12, III.X.3].

116. The Third[15] and Fourth Review Conferences urged States Parties, the United Nations and its specialised agencies to take further specific measures for "cooperation in providing information on their national epidemiological surveillance and data reporting systems, and in providing assistance, on a bilateral level and/or in conjunction with WHO, FAO and OIE, regarding epidemiological and epizootical surveillance, with a view to improvements in the identification and timely reporting of significant outbreaks of human and animal diseases." [IV.X.12, III.X.3].

117. The Sixth Review Conference urged "States Parties to develop frameworks for disease surveillance in humans, animals and plants, and to support programmes for effective responses at the national, bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, including through the conclusion of appropriate agreements that would promote the regular exchange of scientific and technical information in these fields." [VI.X.53].

118. The Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences encouraged "the States Parties to continue strengthening existing international organizations and networks working on infectious diseases, in particular those of the WHO, FAO, OIE and IPPC, within their respective mandates" [VIII.X.64.a, VII.X.54.a, VI.X.55.i], noted "that the role of these organizations is limited to the epidemiological and public/animal/plant health aspects of any disease outbreak, but recognises the added value of information exchange with them" [VIII.X.64.b, VII.X.54.b, VI.X.55.ii], and encouraged "States Parties to improve communication on disease surveillance at all levels, including between States Parties and with the WHO, FAO, OIE and IPPC." [VIII.X.64.c, VII.X.54.c, VI.X.55.iii].

119. The Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences called "upon States Parties to continue establishing and/or improving national and regional capabilities to survey, detect, diagnose and combat infectious diseases as well as other possible biological threats and integrate these efforts into national and/or regional emergency and disaster management plans." [VIII.X.64.d, VII.X.54.d, VI.X.55.iv].

[15] The Third Review Conference version did not mention the FAO, OIE and epizootical surveillance.

120. The Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences urged "States Parties in a position to do so to continue supporting, directly as well as through international organizations, capacity-building in States Parties in need of assistance in the fields of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and combating of infectious diseases and related research." [VIII.X.64.e, VII.X.54.e, VI.X.55.v].

121. The Fourth Review Conference called upon "all States Parties in a position to do so to fully cooperate with the developing States Parties to the Convention in the area of promotion and financing the establishment of vaccine production facilities and recommended further that the relevant multilateral organizations and world financial institutions provide assistance for establishment and promotion of vaccine production projects in these countries." [IV.X.17].

122. The Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences called "upon States Parties to promote the development and production of vaccines and drugs to treat infectious disease through international cooperation and, as appropriate, public-private partnerships." [VIII.X.64.f, VII.X.54.f, VI.X.55.vi].

123. The Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences agreed "on the value of working together to promote capacity building in the fields of vaccine and drug production, disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis, and containment of infectious diseases as well as biological risk management. [VIII.X.63, VII.X.53]. The Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences also affirmed that building such capacity would directly support the achievement of the objectives of the Convention." [VIII.X.63, VII.X.53].

124. The Seventh Review Conference recognized and the Eighth Review Conference reaffirmed "the importance of developing effective national infrastructure for human, animal and plant disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment, as well as national biological risk management through international cooperation and assistance." [VIII.X.65, VII.X.55].

On enhancing existing institutional ways and means

125. The Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences recognized "the wide range of organizations within the United Nations system that are already engaged in international cooperation relevant to this Convention." [VIII.X.62, VII.X.52, VI.X.56].

126. The Third[16], Fourth[18], Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences noted "that existing institutional ways and means of ensuring multilateral cooperation among all States Parties need to be developed further in order to promote international cooperation for peaceful uses in areas relevant to the Convention, including such areas as medicine, public health, agriculture and the environment." [VIII.X.67, VII.X.57, VI.X.48, IV.X.5, III.X.6]. The Eighth Review Conference expanded upon this by "acknowledging the importance of drawing lessons from the Ebola disease outbreak in West Africa, including the need to address the lack of ready operational capacity", the Conference stressed "the value of strengthening international cooperation in infections disease prevention and associated capacity building." [VIII.X.67].

127. The Second Review Conference noted that "co-operation would be best initiated by improved institutionalized direction and co-ordination, and recommended that measures to ensure co-operation on such a basis be pursued within the existing means of the United Nations system." [II.X.6].

[16] Slightly different wording which did not explicitly refer to the environment

128. The Second, Third and Fourth Review Conferences urged States Parties to take specific measures for "facilitating the conclusion of bilateral, regional and multi-regional agreements providing on a mutually advantageous, equal and non-discriminatory basis, for their participation in the development and application of biotechnology". [IV.X.12, III.X.3, II.X.3]. The Third and Fourth Review Conferences also urged the United Nations and its specialised agencies to take similar specific measures. [IV.X.12, III.X.3].

129. The Third Review Conference considered that "the establishment of a world data bank under the supervision of the United Nations might be a suitable way of facilitating the flow of information in the field of genetic engineering, biotechnology and other scientific developments." The Fourth Review Conference reiterated this consideration but without specifying its relationship to the United Nations. [III.X.4, IV.X.13].

130. The Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences urged "States Parties, the United Nations and its specialized agencies to take further specific measures within their competence for the promotion of the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes and of international cooperation in this field." [VIII.X.68, VII.X.58, VI.X.49].

131. The Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences recognised "that there should be efficient coordination mechanisms between the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, in order to facilitate scientific cooperation and technology transfer." [VIII.X.69, VII.X.59, VI.X.50].

On further discussion in the United Nations system

132. The Second, Third and Fourth Review Conferences, requested "the Secretary-General of the United Nations to propose for inclusion of the agenda of a relevant United Nations body a discussion and examination of the means for improving institutional mechanisms in order to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes." It was also recommended that "invitations to participate in this discussion and examination should be extended to all States Parties, whether or not they are members of the United Nations and concerned specialised agencies." The Third Review Conference requested this was to occur "not later than 1993." The Fourth Review Conference requested this to occur "before the next Review Conference." [IV.X.6-7, III.X.7-8, II.X.6].

133. The Second and Third Review Conferences requested "the States Parties and the United Nations Secretariat to include in the document materials prepared for the above-mentioned discussion of States Parties, information and suggestions on the implementation of Article X, urged the specialised agencies, inter alia, FAO, WHO, UNESCO, WIPO and UNIDO, to participate in this discussion and fully co-operate with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and requested the Secretary-General to send all relevant information of this Conference to these agencies." [III.X.9, II.X.7].

On the provision of information on implementation

134. The First[17] and Second Review Conferences requested "States Parties and the United Nations Secretariat to provide information relevant to the implementation of the Article for examination by the next conference of States Parties." The Third and Fourth Review Conferences requested that "the Secretary-General [of the United Nations] collate on an

[17] Slightly different wording

annual basis, and for the information of States Parties, reports on how this Article is being implemented." [IV.X.14, III.X.10, II.X.8, I.X.3].

135. The Sixth[18], Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences encouraged "States Parties to provide appropriate information on how they implement this Article to the Implementation Support Unit within the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and requests the Implementation Support Unit to collate such information for the information of States Parties." [VIII.X.71, VII.X.61, VI.X.54]. The Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences encouraged States Parties to provide this information "at least biannually." [VIII.X.71, VII.X.61].

[18] Slightly different wording

Annex II

Common understandings reached by States Parties during the previous intersessional process 2012-2015 on Cooperation and Assistance, with a Particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X

A. 2012

3. States Parties recalled their legal obligation to facilitate and their right to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes and not to hamper the economic and technological development of States Parties.

4. States Parties agreed on the importance of taking full advantage of the 2012–2015 intersessional process, as well as the other outcomes of the Seventh Review Conference, to strengthen international cooperation and assistance. States Parties recognized the value of elaborating further the existing common understandings related to Article X.

5. States Parties agreed to work together to further enhance the functioning of the database system to facilitate requests for and offers of exchange of assistance and cooperation, and continue to assess the utility of the database in view of its intended purpose.

6. States Parties agreed to continue to work together to target and mobilize resources, including financial resources, to address gaps and needs for assistance and cooperation, including in particular from developed to developing States Parties, and from international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders. In this regard, States Parties agreed on the value of improving coordination with relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, in full conformity with their respective mandates.

7. In addressing challenges and obstacles to developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in the biological sciences and technology, including equipment and material, for peaceful purposes to their full potential, and possible means of overcoming these, States Parties noted the specific value of:

(a) Improving coordination of key activities in order to enhance synergy and avoid duplication.

(b) Continuing discussion on the challenges associated with the provision of sustainable biosafety and biosecurity capabilities, including in low-resource settings;

(c) Identifying and addressing specific impediments to the provision or receipt of international assistance in response to an attack or unusual disease outbreak;

(d) Continued consideration of challenges and obstacles to developing international cooperation under Article X and possible means of overcoming these.

8. In addressing a range of specific measures for the full and comprehensive implementation of Article X taking into account all of its provisions, including facilitation of cooperation and assistance, including in terms of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for peaceful purposes, and identification of critical gaps and needs in these areas, States Parties recognized the value of ensuring that cooperation and assistance:

(a) Meets differing national circumstances;

(b) Promotes sharing of best practices and lessons learned;

(c) Facilitates the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for peaceful purposes;

(d) Furthers information exchange and cooperation;

(e) Enables technical exchange and cooperation, including developing national capacity to address biorisk management;

(f) Contributes to building human resources;

(g) Contributes to preventing the proliferation of biological weapons, including through building national capacity.

9. States Parties agreed on the importance of strengthening national capacity through international cooperation to prevent accidental or deliberate releases of biological agents, as well as for detecting, reporting, and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks, including through:

(a) Identifying and addressing gaps and needs for facilitating the relevant exchange of equipment, materials, and scientific and technological information;

(b) Promoting collaborative research and development including through exchange of scientists and providing training opportunities in advanced laboratories;

(c) Building regional partnerships to enhance disease surveillance and containment initiatives;

(d) Reinforcing defences against new and emerging diseases through stronger national capacity for detection, surveillance, and diagnosis, as well as containing outbreaks at their source, and decontaminating them.

10. In light of rapid developments in the life sciences, States Parties identified a need to continue to strengthen international cooperation to ensure all States Parties have access to the benefits of biotechnology, genetic engineering, microbiology and other related areas. States Parties agreed on the value of domestic legislative, regulatory and policy arrangements to promote activities not prohibited by the Convention and foster innovation in the life sciences, including in industry and academic and research institutions.

11. States Parties agreed on the importance of continuing discussions on full and effective implementation of Article X obligations, including in light of various proposals made by States Parties.

B. 2013

12. States Parties recalled their legal obligation to facilitate and their right to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes and not to hamper the economic and technological development of States Parties.

13. States Parties recalled their agreement on the importance of taking full advantage of the 2012–2015 intersessional process, as well as the other outcomes of the Seventh Review Conference, to strengthen international cooperation and assistance. States Parties recognized the value of elaborating further the existing common understandings related to Article X.

14. To further reinforce efforts to work together to target and mobilize resources, States Parties agreed on the value of:

(a) Promoting international cooperation providing for the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes in accordance with Article X of the Convention and not limiting this cooperation to financial resources;

(b) Continuing to work together to target and mobilize resources, including financial resources, to address gaps and needs for assistance and cooperation including in particular from developed to developing States Parties and also exploring different ways of cooperation, including South-South, cooperation;

(c) Submitting clear, specific, and timely national reports on implementation of Article X as agreed at the Seventh Review Conference.

15. In order to further enhance the function of the database system to facilitate requests for and offers of exchange of assistance and cooperation, States Parties noted the value of, assessing its functionality, strengthening its utilization and improving its operation. States Parties agreed on the value of:

(a) Making offers of assistance accessible on the open section of the website and feature a prominent link to these offers on the home page;

(b) Encouraging States Parties that have submitted offers to regularly update contact and other information;

(c) Exploring more effective means of bringing assistance requests to the attention of States Parties that have made potentially relevant offers of assistance;

(d) Highlighting the database and related assistance in the course of outreach efforts;

(e) Reviewing the status of these efforts, and the use of the database, on the basis of the Report of the ISU for 2014.

16. To further efforts to address challenges and obstacles to developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in the biological sciences and technology, including equipment and material for peaceful purposes to their full potential, and possible means of overcoming these, States Parties noted the value of:

(a) Pursuing a long-term, sustainable and systematic approach to the provision of cooperation and assistance;

(b) Avoiding imposing restrictions and/or limitations on transfers for purposes consistent with the objectives and provisions of the Convention of scientific knowledge, technology, equipment and materials under Article X;

(c) Helping requesting countries to provide a thorough explanation of their needs and to define in specific terms the type of support that could best address those needs;

(d) Leveraging existing bilateral and multilateral partnerships, and create new ones, to better coordinate plans and develop joint solutions to the challenges in exchange of assistance during public health and medical emergencies;

(e) Convene regional seminars and workshops to explore ways and means of promoting the full and effective implementation of Article X.

17. Recognizing the value of twinning programmes and other means of international exchange in education and training for strengthening cooperation among States Parties, for capacity-building and sharing of advanced expertise including in particular with developing

countries, and for improving global capacity for disease detection and control, States Parties recognized the value of developing and facilitating such programmes, including by:

(a) Sharing results of advanced research in life sciences so that scientists, engineers, students and teachers including in particular in developing countries are aware of opportunities and can take full advantage of new developments in biological sciences and technology;

(b) Providing opportunities for training in advanced laboratories and working with cutting-edge technology to help build defences against disease whether naturally occurring or deliberate, including in particular to developing countries.

18. In order to further efforts to strengthen national capacity through international cooperation to prevent accidental or deliberate releases of biological agents, as well as for detecting and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks, States Parties noted the value of:

(a) Providing assistance upon request with challenges related to storing and dealing with pathogens, development of scientific research capacity and training of national specialists;

(b) Facilitating the transport, entry, exit, processing and disposal of biological substances and diagnostic specimens and materials, in accordance with national laws and regulations, for public, animal and plant health response and for other peaceful purposes;

(c) Developing international capacity to provide urgent assistance, including testing systems and diagnostic equipment, medical countermeasures and related logistical support, biological environmental monitoring devices, and advice and expert assistance;

(d) Identifying and addressing specific impediments to the provision or receipt of international assistance in response to an attack or unusual disease outbreak;

(e) Promoting interagency coordination and multi-sectoral cooperation to prepare for, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks whether natural, accidental or deliberate in nature;

(f) Developing and implementing appropriate, sustainable, and effective laboratory safety and security measures, through international cooperation and assistance, including on exchanges of technology, training materials and resources.

19. In order to further efforts to strengthen international cooperation to ensure all States Parties have access to the benefits of developments in the life sciences, States Parties noted the value of harnessing recent advances, including in enabling technologies, in order to strengthen the sustainable development of States Parties, taking into account the needs of developing countries in meeting health-related challenges.

20. Recognizing the importance of coordination with relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, taking into account the mandates of existing mechanisms established by those organizations, States Parties noted the value of closer cooperation and coordination between States Parties and relevant international organization, in accordance with their respective mandates, including in order to build an integrated approach on biosecurity and biosafety.

21. States Parties recalled their agreement on the importance of continuing discussions on full and effective implementation of Article X obligations, including in light of various proposals made by States Parties.

C. 2014

22. States Parties recalled their legal obligation to facilitate and their right to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes and not to hamper the economic and technological development of States Parties.

23. States Parties recalled their agreement on the importance of taking full advantage of the 2012–2015 intersessional process, as well as the other outcomes of the Seventh Review Conference, to strengthen international cooperation and assistance. States Parties recognized the value of elaborating further the existing common understandings related to Article X.

24. States Parties reiterated the value of the submission of clear, specific, and timely national reports on implementation of Article X as agreed at the Seventh Review Conference.

25. In order to further enhance the functioning of the database system to facilitate requests for and offers of exchange of assistance and cooperation, States Parties noted the value of assessing its functionality, strengthening its utilization and improving its operation. States Parties noted the value of continuing and expanding their use of the database, and using it to reconcile supply and demand for technical assistance, and improving the provision of assistance and cooperation by detailing needs and identifying capacity gaps. States Parties also agreed on the value of actively promoting its use and more prominently featuring the assistance and cooperation database on the main ISU webpage. States Parties noted the value of considering in 2015 reasons for its low usage in order to address potential obstacles.

26. To further reinforce efforts to work together to target and mobilize resources, States Parties noted the value of:

(a) Promoting international cooperation providing for the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes in accordance with Article X of the Convention and not limiting this cooperation to financial resources;

(b) Continuing to work together to target and mobilize resources, including financial resources, to address gaps and needs for assistance and cooperation including in particular from developed to developing States Parties and also exploring different ways of cooperation;

(c) Pursuing a long-term, sustainable and systematic approach to the provision of cooperation and assistance;

(d) Mutuality of benefit from international cooperation to address needs including the need for timely access to affordable drugs and vaccines and related diagnostic, preventative and therapeutic equipment;

(e) The important role of the private sector in the transfer of technology and information and the wide range of organizations within the United Nations system that are already engaged in international cooperation relevant to the Convention; and

(f) Where appropriate, that regional cooperation complimems national efforts, such as for the stockpiling of prophylactics and therapeutics.

27. To further efforts to address challenges and obstacles to developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in the biological sciences and technology, including equipment and material for peaceful purposes to their full potential, and possible means of overcoming these, States Parties noted the value of:

(a) Avoiding imposing restrictions and/or limitations on transfers for purposes consistent with the objectives and provisions of the Convention of scientific knowledge, technology, equipment and materials under Article X;

(b) Helping requesting countries to provide a thorough explanation of their needs and to define in specific terms the type of support that could best address those needs;

States Parties also noted the value of continuing to consider this topic, including the possible importance of the interoperability of regulatory standards.

28. In order to further address a range of specific measures for the full and comprehensive implementation of Article X taking into account all of its provisions, including facilitation of cooperation and assistance, States Parties recognized the value of:

(a) Continuing national, regional and international efforts to exchange equipment, materials, scientific and technological information, experiences, lessons-learned, best practices, education, technical knowledge, as well as financial resources;

(b) Open-access to scientific publications, reducing possible barriers to access posed by the costs of subscriptions: and

(c) Facilitating the transport, entry, exit, processing and disposal of biological substances and diagnostic specimens and materials, in accordance with national laws and regulations, for public, animal and plant health response and for other peaceful purposes.

29. In order to further reinforce efforts to develop human resources in the biological sciences and technology relevant to the implementation of the Convention, States Parties recognized the value of international cooperation, upon request:

(a) Building a broader range of human capacity, including, *inter alia* for national implementation of all the provisions of the Convention, science and technology; biosafety and biosecurity management, as well as dealing with disease;

(b) Making full use of train-the-trainer approaches, including, as appropriate, local-based training supported by national or regional associations and organizations; and

(c) Opportunities for training and work with cutting edge technology in universities, research institutions and production facilities as well as advanced laboratories.

30. In order to further efforts to strengthen national, regional and international capacity through international cooperation to prevent accidental or deliberate releases of biological agents, as well as for detecting and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks, States Parties noted the value of, at the request of the recipient State and in accordance with their needs:

(a) Making detection, surveillance and response capacity more effective and robust, including through real-time bio-surveillance, more effective diagnostics, as well as emergency operation centres with common standards;

(b) Sharing relevant information on, *inter alia*, opportunities and challenges resulting from advances in the life sciences and biotechnology, disease outbreaks, biosafety, and health care; and

(c) The availability of cost-effective, affordable and quality assured medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and related equipment and materials for peaceful purposes.

States Parties also noted the value of continuing to consider this topic, including environments conducive to development of diagnostics, prophylactics and therapeutics.

31. In order to further efforts to strengthen international cooperation to ensure all States Parties have access to the benefits of developments in the life sciences, States Parties noted

the value of harnessing recent advances, including in enabling technologies, vaccine development and production, biological production technologies, equipment and technical, practical and theoretical training, including for maintenance, occupational health and safety, for high containment laboratories, in order to strengthen the sustainable development of States Parties, taking into account the needs of developing countries in meeting health-related challenges.

32. Recognizing the importance of coordination with relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, and taking into account the mandates of existing mechanisms established by those organizations, States Parties noted the value of:

(a) Promoting broader recognition of the role of the Convention; and

(b) Closer cooperation and coordination between States Parties and relevant international organizations in accordance with their respective mandates.

33. States Parties recalled their agreement on the importance of continuing discussions on full and effective implementation of Article X obligations, including in light of various proposals made by States Parties.

D. 2015

34. States Parties recalled their legal obligation to facilitate and their right to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes and not to hamper the economic and technological development of States Parties.

35. States Parties recalled their agreement on the importance of taking full advantage of the 2012–2015 intersessional process, as well as the other outcomes of the Seventh Review Conference, to strengthen international cooperation and assistance. States Parties recognized the value of elaborating further the existing common understandings related to Article X.

36. States Parties reiterated the value of the submission of clear, specific, and timely national reports on implementation of Article X as agreed at the Seventh Review Conference.

37. States Parties recalled their agreement on the importance of continuing discussions on full and, effective implementation of Article X obligations, including in light of various proposals made by States Parties.

38. To further efforts to address the challenges and obstacles to developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in the biological sciences and technology, including equipment and material, for peaceful purposes to their full potential, and possible means of overcoming these, States Parties noted the value of:

(a) Enhancing international efforts to bridge the gaps between developed and developing countries, and strengthen international cooperation to ensure all States Parties have access to the benefits of biotechnology, genetic engineering, microbiology and other related areas, in light of the rapid pace of science and technology developments, including, inter alia developments of special relevance to disease surveillance, diagnosis and mitigation as well as advances in enabling technologies;

(b) Making efforts to more specifically identify, evaluate and address challenges and overcome obstacles in the implementation of Article X to generate equitable benefits for all States Parties, in particular developing countries;

(c) Taking steps to facilitate and ensure timely access to affordable drugs and vaccines and related diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic equipment to affected States, especially in developing countries, as highlighted by the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa in 2014;

(d) Continuing national, regional and international efforts to support the full access and exchange for all States Parties, in particular from developed to developing countries, of equipment, materials, scientific and technological information, experiences, lessons-learned, best practices, education, technical knowledge, as well as financial resources in the field of life sciences and related areas intended for peaceful purposes; and

(e) Facilitate the participation from developing to developed countries, through ICT tools, of scientific information, lessons learned exchanges and sectorial know-how through a cooperative approach.

39. To further address a range of specific measures for the full and comprehensive, implementation of Article X taking into account all of its provisions, including facilitation of cooperation and assistance, States Parties noted the value of:

(a) Avoiding imposing restrictions and/or limitations on transfers of scientific knowledge, technology, equipment and materials for purposes consistent with the objectives and provisions of the Convention;

(b) Assisting States Parties in the development of appropriate national systems of health care that can respond effectively to infectious disease outbreaks, including through contributing to the training of human resources, transfer of technologies to help improve national capacities for diagnosis, research, response, mitigation and recovery including means of protection, and promote academic and scientific exchange between national experts, and in this context welcomed initiatives that aim to promote and coordinate such assistance, upon request and with the consent of the State Parties;

(c) The growing number of scientific publications and the need to promote wider access through reducing barriers, including barriers imposed by the high costs of subscriptions;

(d) Sharing relevant information about the opportunities and challenges resulting from scientific advances in the life sciences and in biotechnology, infectious disease outbreaks, healthcare, agriculture and industry, including through papers and expert presentations at BWC meetings;

(e) Taking steps to facilitate and ensure that States Parties have full access to the benefits of advances in life sciences, for peaceful purposes including recent advances such as new technologies, the production or development of vaccines, biological production technologies, and equipment and training for appropriate levels of containment laboratories;

(f) Facilitating the availability of cost-effective, affordable and quality-assured medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and related equipment and materials for peaceful purposes; and

(g) Promoting collaborative research and development, including through exchange of scientists and providing training opportunities in advanced laboratories.

40. To further address ways and means to target and mobilize resources, including financial resources, to address gaps and needs for assistance and cooperation, in particular from developed to developing States Parties, and from international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, States Parties noted the value of:

(a) Facilitating the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials, and technologies for peaceful purposes, and recognized that International cooperation under Article X is not limited to financial resources;

(b) States Parties in a position to do so should consider additional contributions to the BWC Sponsorship programme to increase the level of participation in meetings of the BWC and taking into account the high importance of its predictability; and

(c) Further utilizing the cooperation and assistance database established in pursuance of the decision of the Seventh Review Conference for targeting resources by States Parties offering assistance and cooperation, in order to meet the need of the States Parties.

41. To further address education, training, exchange and twinning programmes and other means of developing human resources in the biological sciences and technology relevant to the implementation of the Convention, particularly in developing countries, States Parties acknowledged that exchanges in education and training contribute to the development of relevant human resources in the field of biological sciences, and that international cooperation in education and training will help to reduce the gap between the capabilities of States Parties.

42. To further address capacity-building, through international cooperation, in biosafety and biosecurity, and for detecting, notifying, and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks, including in the areas of preparedness, response, and crisis management and mitigation, States Parties noted that recent lessons learnt from infectious disease outbreaks reinforce the need for a continued and stronger concerted international effort to build countries' capacities, at the request of the recipient State and in accordance with their needs, to effectively mitigate the risk posed to human, animal and plant health by relevant biological agents.

43. To further address coordination of cooperation with other relevant international and regional organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, States Parties recognized that relevant international and regional organizations such as the WHO and the OIE play an important role in disease surveillance, prevention, detection, response, mitigation and recovery and there is therefore merit in coordination and cooperation between States Parties and relevant international organizations in accordance with their respective mandates.

Annex III

List of Relevant Working Papers, Background Documents, and Presentations submitted during the Intersessional Programme 2012-2015

[English only]

Preparatory Committee for the Eighth Review Conference

BWC/CONF.VIII/PC/WP.1/Rev.2/Add.1	Strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention Operationalising mobile biomedical units to deliver protection against biological weapons, investigate their alleged use, and to suppress epidemics of various etiology. Addendum - Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/CONF.VIII/PC/WP.14	Articles VII and X: the importance of synergy - Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
BWC/CONF.VIII/PC/WP.20	Implementation of Article X of the BTWC by the European Union Institutions and the European Union Member States. Submitted by the European Union
BWC/CONF.VIII/PC/WP.30	Implementation of National CBRN actions plans: Facilitating cooperation to strengthen capacities against bio-risks - Submitted by Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Kenya, Montenegro, Philippines and Uganda
BWC/CONF.VIII/PC/WP.32	Establishing a Non-proliferation Export Control and International Cooperation Regime under the Framework of the Biological Weapons Convention - Submitted by China and Pakistan
BWC/CONF.VIII/PC/WP.33	"Transfers" under the Framework of BTWC: Challenges and Opportunities - Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

Eighth Review Conference

BWC/CONF.VIII/WP.4	Dificultades y obstáculos que enfrenta Cuba para la plena aplicación del Artículo X de la Convención;
BWC/CONF.VIII/WP.5	Ofrecimientos y solicitudes de Cooperación internacional y Asistencia a la Base de Datos de

BWC/CONF.VIII/WP.4	Dificultades y obstáculos que enfrenta Cuba para la plena aplicación del Artículo X de la Convención; Cooperación Internacional para el Artículo X de la Convención. Presentado por Cuba
BWC/CONF.VIII/WP.6	Implementación del Artículo X de la convención sobre armas biológicas. Presentado por Cuba
BWC/CONF.VIII/WP.7	Report on implementation of Article X of the Convention. Submitted by India
BWC/CONF.VIII/WP.15	Facilitating the Fullest Possible Exchange of Science and Technology under Article X. Submitted by the United States of America
BWC/CONF.VIII/WP.21	International Activities of Global Partnership Member Countries related to Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. Submitted by: Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America
BWC/CONF.VIII/WP.21/Corr.1	International Activities of Global Partnership Member Countries related to Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Corrigendum
BWC/CONF.VIII/WP.21/Add.1	International Activities of Global Partnership Member Countries related to Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention – Addendum. Submitted by Italy
BWC/CONF.VIII/WP.23	BTWC Article X Compliance Mechanism for the 8th Review Conference. Submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States
BWC/CONF.VIII/WP.31*	Establishing a Non-Proliferation Export Control and International Cooperation Regime under the Framework of the Biological Weapons Convention". Submitted by China and Pakistan
BWC/CONF.VIII/WP.37	Russia's Implementation of Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. Submitted by the Russian Federation

2012 Meeting of Experts

BWC/MSP/2012/MX/WP.2	Challenges to developing international cooperation and assistance on biosafety and biosecurity: matching resources to reality - submitted by the United Kingdom
BWC/MSP/2012/MX/WP.3	Cooperation and Assistance - Submitted by the United States of America
BWC/MSP/2012/MX/WP.7	Dificultades y obstáculos que enfrenta Cuba para la plena aplicación de la CABT y en particular para el desarrollo al máximo de la cooperación, la asistencia y el intercambio internacionales en ciencias biológicas y tecnología, incluidos los equipos y materiales, con fines pacíficos - Presentado por Cuba
BWC/MSP/2012/MX/WP.8	Participation of the Federal Service for Consumer Rights and Human Welfare Protection of the Russian Federation in international cooperation between States Parties BTWC in sharing of knowledge, information, technology, materials and equipment for the fight against infectious diseases and other peaceful purposes - Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/MSP/2012/MX/WP.9	Information on practical efforts to enhance the BTWC regime undertaken by the Federal Service on Customers' Rights Protection and Human Well-Being Surveillance of the Russian Federation in 2011-2012 - Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/MSP/2012/MX/INF.5	Report on USA Implementation of Article X of the Convention
BWC/MSP/2012/MX/INF.6	Experiencias de Cuba en la aplicación del artículo X de la CABT
BWC/MSP/2012/MX/INF.7	Assistance and Cooperation - Submitted by the European Union
BWC/MSP/2012/MX/INF.8	Australia's Implementation of BWC Article X - Submitted by Australia

2012 Meeting of States Parties

BWC/MSP/2012/WP.7	The intersessional process: comments and proposals - submitted by South Africa
BWC/MSP/2012/WP.10	International cooperation - Submitted by China (informal English translation included)
BWC/MSP/2012/INF.1	International activities of the Government of Canada

	related to Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention: Update 2012 - submitted by Canada

2013 Meeting of Experts

BWC/MSP/2013/MX/WP.6	Identifying and addressing barriers to the emergency sharing of international public health and medical assistance - Submitted by the United States of America
BWC/MSP/2013/MX/WP.15	Assistance and international cooperation and its role in the implementation of the Convention - Submitted by Iraq
BWC/MSP/2013/MX/WP.17	Measures for full, effective and non-discriminatory Implementation of the Article X - Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Group of the Non-aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the BWC
BWC/MSP/2013/MX/INF.2	Challenges and obstacles to developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange - Background information document submitted by the Implementation Support Unit

2013 Meeting of States Parties

BWC/MSP/2013/WP.4	Getting Past Yes: Moving From Consensus Text to Effective Action - Submitted by Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America
BWC/MSP/2013/WP.9	International Cooperation and Assistance of Japan related to Article X - Submitted by Japan
BWC/MSP/2013/INF.2	International activities of the Government of Canada related to Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention: update 2013 - submitted by Canada
BWC/MSP/2013/INF.3	Report on Germany's Implementation of Article X. Submitted by Germany
BWC/MSP/2013/INF.4	Assistance and cooperation. Submitted by the European Union
BWC/MSP/2013/INF.5	Report on cooperation and Assistance under Article X of the Convention. Submitted by Iraq

2014 Meeting of Experts

BWC/MSP/2014/MX/INF.5	Report on USA implementation of Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Submitted by the United States of America

2014 Meeting of States Parties

BWC/MSP/2014/WP.4	China's efforts in assisting West African countries combatting Ebola epidemic - submitted by China
BWC/MSP/2014/WP.10	Updated Report on Germany's implementation of Article X (with special focus on the German Partnership Programme for Excellence in Biological and Health Security)
BWC/MSP/2014/WP.11	International activities of the Government of Canada related to Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention: Update 2014
BWC/MSP/2014/WP.12	Report on implementation of Article X of the Convention. Submitted by India
BWC/MSP/2014/INF.5	Update on Australia's Implementation of BWC Article X

2015 Meeting of Experts

BWC/MSP/2015/MX/WP.4	The United States of America High Containment Laboratory Policy. Submitted by the United States of America
BWC/MSP/2015/MX/WP.20	Dificultades y obstáculos que enfrenta Cuba para la plena aplicación de la CABT y en particular para el desarrollo al máximo de la cooperación, la asistencia y el intercambio internacionales en ciencias biológicas y tecnología, incluidos los equipos y materiales, con fines pacíficos. Submitted by Cuba.
BWC/MSP/2015/MX/WP.21	Experiencias de Cuba en la aplicación del Artículo X de la CABT - Submitted by Cuba
BWC/MSP/2015/MX/WP.23	Ofrecimientos y solicitudes de Cooperación internacional y Asistencia a la Base de Datos de Cooperación Internacional para el Artículo X de la CABT - Submitted by Cuba
BWC/MSP/2015/MX/INF.1	2014 Implementation of BWC Article X (Cooperation and Assistance) - Submitted by Australia
BWC/MSP/2015/MX/INF.3	Background Information on continuing challenges and obstacles to developing international cooperation,

	assistance and exchange - Submitted by the Implementation Support Unit

2015 Meeting of States Parties

BWC/MSP/2015/WP.5	International activities of the Global Partnership against the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction related to Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Submitted by Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America
BWC/MSP/2015/WP.7	International cooperation and assistance of Japan related to Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (2015) - Submitted by Japan
BWC/MSP/2015/WP.7/Corr.1	International cooperation and assistance of Japan related to Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (2015) - Submitted by Japan
BWC/MSP/2015/WP.8	Establishing a Non-Proliferation Export Control Regime under the Framework of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction - Submitted by China
BWC/MSP/2015/WP.13	International/national implementation of Article X through transparent and reassurance mechanism - Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran
BWC/MSP/2015/INF.1	Report on Implementation of Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
BWC/MSP/2015/INF.2	International Activities of the Government of Canada related to Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention: Update 2015 - Submitted by Canada